

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this response, Claims 1-45 were pending in the application. In the Office Action dated December 21, 2005, the drawings were objected to and Claims 1-45 were allowed. Following this response, Claims 1-45 remain in this application.

I. Allowance of Claims

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner pass Claims 1-45 to issue.

II. Change to Attorney Docket Number

Please note that the Attorney Docket Number for this application is now **60027.0256US01/BS01446**.

III. Objection to the Drawings

In the Office Action dated December 21, 2005, the Examiner objected to the drawings. Specifically, the Examiner stated that FIG. 7 includes unreadable legends. Applicants respectfully submit that substitute FIG. 7 includes corrected legends. Consequently, subject to the approval of the Examiner, it is proposed to substitute FIG. 7 with the attached substitute FIG. 7. Applicants respectfully submit that substitute FIG. 7. overcomes this objection and adds no new matter.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. The preceding arguments are based only on the arguments in the Office Action, and therefore do not address patentable aspects of the invention that were not addressed by the Examiner in the Office Action. The claims may include other elements that are not shown, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, the preceding argument in favor of patentability is advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability. Furthermore, the Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 24, 2006

By: 

D. Kent Stier
Reg. No. 50,640

Merchant & Gould
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-9946
Telephone: 404.954.5066



DKS:mdb

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Subject to the Examiner's approval, please replace FIG. 7 with the attached Replacement Sheet of FIG. 7.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

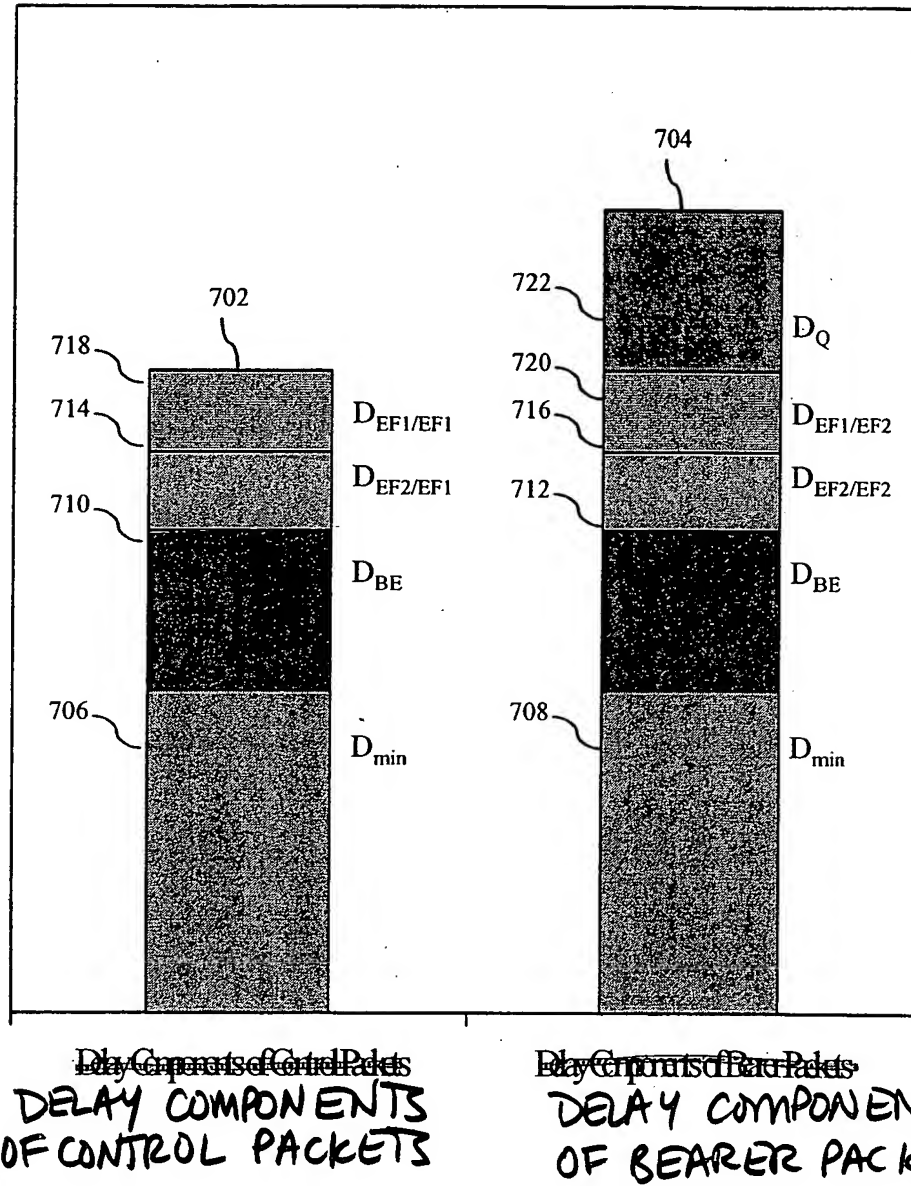


FIG. 7